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GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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LATEST KENYA STYLES IN EARRINGS. (See Bulletin No. 1.)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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The World's Longest Race Run for Silk

TRANSFER of letters by air mail from New York to San Francisco is the swiftest relay carrier known to commerce. Probably the longest relay is the silk race and in this dramatic contest Uncle Sam also has been winning heats.

The course is 8,300 miles. Swiftest steamships, special trains for which speed limits are waived, seaplanes and airplanes participate. But there is no cheering crowd in the stands, because every mile of the race is concealed with the closest secrecy. The stakes are millions.

Six years ago 81 per cent of the United States' huge silk imports from Japan came in foreign steamers, but within two years steamers flying the American flag in the Pacific have obtained an important share of this valuable trade.

One Train Brings $5,000,000 Shipment

Excepting gold and silver bullion, silk probably is the most precious commodity, weight for weight, carried on a large scale by commerce. A single special train will bring five million dollars' worth of silk. Just as it costs dearly to ship money, high charges are put on silk shipments. The saving of two days' sailing time between Yokohama and Seattle is said to make a difference of fifty cents a bale at New York. Interest on the millions of dollars tied up multiplies at the rate of thousands of dollars a day and, in addition, there is costly insurance. In the silk trade time literally is money.

The world's record on the Yokohama-New York silk course was set up a few months ago when the Orient was brought within 13 days, 3 hours and 8 minutes of Manhattan. Laden with $5,500,000 worth of raw silk, the President Jackson made Seattle on the ninth day. A United States mail seaplane met the liner at Victoria and winged its way to Seattle, 100 miles away. It brought port documents and forwarded cargo papers to New York before the steamship docked.

Faster Than the Best Passenger Trains

Special port forces moved the rich consignment in three hours to a special silk train waiting with steam up. The swift Oriental Limited passenger trains take 70 hours to reach Chicago; the "reefer," as the silk special is known to railroaders, makes it in 65 hours. Twelve cars were required for the President Jackson cargo. With Queen Silk goes a heavy cordon of train guards armed to the teeth. When the treasure train safely reaches New York the shipment is divided quickly among the consignees for storage in warehouses or is dispatched to mills in such famous silk towns as Paterson, New Jersey, or Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Few people know when the "reefer" is on the rails. Like a ship of war, it virtually runs under sealed orders. Railroad divisions seldom know when it is coming or where it is going until it and orders arrive.

The previous speed record for silk shipments was made when the President Grant landed a $10,000,000 consignment at Seattle. The "reefer" brought this product of billions of caterpillars into New York in 13 days, 4 hours, and 55 minutes out of Yokohama. Night air mail is a boon to these New York silk merchants. Before silk shipments can be released many papers must be approved

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THE BRONZE GUARD AROUND EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN'S TOMB: INNSBRUCK

This Maximilian, an emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, is regarded as the second founder of the Hapsburg family. He was born in 1459. No visitor to Innsbruck fails to look at his tomb in the Church of the Franciscans, or Court Church, attached to the Imperial Palace. The group has twenty-eight gigantic bronze figures, most of them weighing over a ton. They stand in the form of mourners around the gigantic marble sarcophagus. Twenty-three of the figures represent ancestors or members of the Emperor's family then living, while the rest are the effigies of his favorite heroes of past ages (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Lacroma, Ancestral Island of the Hapsburgs

GATHERING at Lindau, Germany, on the north shore of Lake Constance, nearly all of the 60 surviving members of the Hapsburg family held a reunion recently to consider the family fortunes.

Lacroma, a little island on the Dalmatian coast, was the appropriate place for a gathering of the clan Hapsburg, but Lacroma for a year has been the undisputed possession of Jugo-Slavia. That state paid Princess Elizabeth, of Austria, half a million dollars indemnity for clear title to this ancestral home of the leaders of the Hapsburg family.

Near Mediterranean's Second Riviera

The bit of territory might well have been known heretofore as the dark star of ill-fated Hapsburg archdukes. Maximilian, brother of the late Emperor Franz Joseph, left his beautiful retreat there to become for a brief period Emperor of Mexico—and to face a firing squad at Querétaro. Archduke Rudolph, son of Franz Joseph and heir to the imperial crown, counted Lacroma one of his favorite homes in the years before the tragedy that found him dead in a hunting lodge.

Lacroma, only a mile long and less than half as wide, lies in the deep blue waters a little way off the shore of the Mediterranean's second Riviera, the coast across the Adriatic sea from the back of Italy's "boot." It is only half a mile from Ragusa, the famous medieval rival of Venice, which alone kept its independence when all the rest of the Adriatic coast was in the hands of the Turks or the Venetians. Lacroma, with the other islands of the neighborhood, was a part of the Republic of Ragusa, and came down through the centuries sheltered by that shrewd and wise commonwealth—safe while the neighboring city suffered from its series of cruel earthquakes.

Maximilian Converted Monastery Into Chateau

Legend says Richard Coeur-de-Lion was shipwrecked on Lacroma and in gratitude for having his life saved built there a chapel and monastery. At any rate, in 1023 a Benedictine monastery was founded on Lacroma, and the island continued a religious community for centuries. Through all the ups and downs of history the island remained Ragusan territory until one of Napoleon's generals captured the city in 1808 and proclaimed the Republic to be at an end. A new and unwelcome chapter opened for Ragusa in 1815 when the Congress of Vienna, tossing bits of Europe about as it wished, gave Ragusa's territory to Austria.

Maximilian bought the island about the middle of the nineteenth century and converted the ruined monastery into a chateau for himself. It was after his execution that his nephew, Rudolph, frequented the island. When the second great tragedy overtook the Hapsburgs the island and its buildings were handed over to the Dominican monks; but in 1911 the imperial family regained possession and, before the World War, it was given to the Princess Elizabeth as a marriage dowry.

The island is heavily wooded and covered with a smaller growth of semi-tropical plants: oleanders, myrtles and aloes, with here and there tall fir trees.

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and inspected. Seattle has one of the two seaplane mail services in the United States, hence Queen Silk will suffer no embarrassment of delay there. Night air mail will hasten dispatch of silk shipment papers to New York so there will be no slip when the dusty "reefer" reaches the Hudson.

The Name China Means "Silk People"

Although silk culture originated in China and the very name China finds its birth in a term meaning "silk people," the United States looks to Japan for most of this raw material. American mills are weaving nearly 50,000,000 pounds of raw silk annually, of which about 80 per cent comes from Japanese mulberry orchards. The ugly little silk worm is treated with great respect in the Orient for it brings to the Far Eastern peoples more than $300,000,000 from the United States alone.

Queen Silk's throne is as solid as the year it was set up by a Chinese princess, centuries before the birth of Christ. The western world began to worship her when the crusaders went to the East "to kill the horned devils and returned to imitate the fine gentlemen they found there." The merchants of Venice, thriving on the West's new knowledge, like the merchants of New York to-day, guarded Queen Silk well; this single city-state built 300 men-of-war to convoy its silk fleets.

Bulletin No. 2, November 24, 1924.

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Badu, Texas and Wyoming Have Women Governors

THERE is one place in the world where the news that Texas and Wyoming have elected women governors to administer their affairs will be received with the comment, "Well, that makes three, at least."

Badu has had a woman governor for ten years. In addition to being governor she is also preacher, teacher, police magistrate, and prohibition officer. Badu is an island just beyond the tip of Cape York Peninsula, which sticks out like a sore thumb farther north than any other portion of the Australian continent. The woman governor has made her domain a model of usefulness, cleanliness and temperance.

Source of Valuable Pearls

Badu, more commonly known as Mulgrave Island, has for some time been noted for the prosperity of its native inhabitants. They have adopted the English folk dances, and when they have finished their pearl fishing for the day they gambol on the green as Englishmen did in Shakespeare's day. And its women in their hours of ease make a lace which is fine in texture and beautiful in pattern.

The island itself belongs to that group known as the Torres Straits Islands, directly north of Queensland, volcanic fragments from whose reefs and shoals stud the 90 miles of sea stretching from Cape York to New Guinea. Both the Strait and the islands took their name from the daring old Portuguese seaman, Torres, who first threaded his way through the dangerous labyrinth in 1606.

In recent years valuable pearls have been found along the western and northern coasts of Australia, as well as mother-of-pearl shells, and the Torres Strait has come in for its share of the fame. The shells are found in water from four to six fathoms deep, and usually are brought to the surface by Malay and Papuan divers, though modern dredging methods have been put into operation at certain places.

Each Island Noted for Special Feature

Many of the islands are mere patches of sand and coral, the tops of the Australian Cordillera which have been weathered down, while others are up to 50 square miles in area. Only the larger ones are inhabited, the smaller being used for garden spots or pearling or fishing stations. Experts say that some of the pearls found in the vicinity of these islands are among the clearest of the gems we have and consequently are very valuable.

As the result of wise legislation of the industry by the Australian Government, the natives have become highly industrious, and are among the most thriving of Pacific island races. Both men and women have excellent physiques, and regular, well-formed features. York, Darnley, Murray, Mabuag, and Badu are among the most important of the islands, each being noted for some particular feature.

Mabuag has a famous native festival each year; York treasures the stories of the Spanish galleons which hundreds of years ago were wrecked on its coral-strewn shores. Darnley is noted for its fish traps; and Murray for its breeding beds of the coral insect, which prove a lure to scientists from all over the world.

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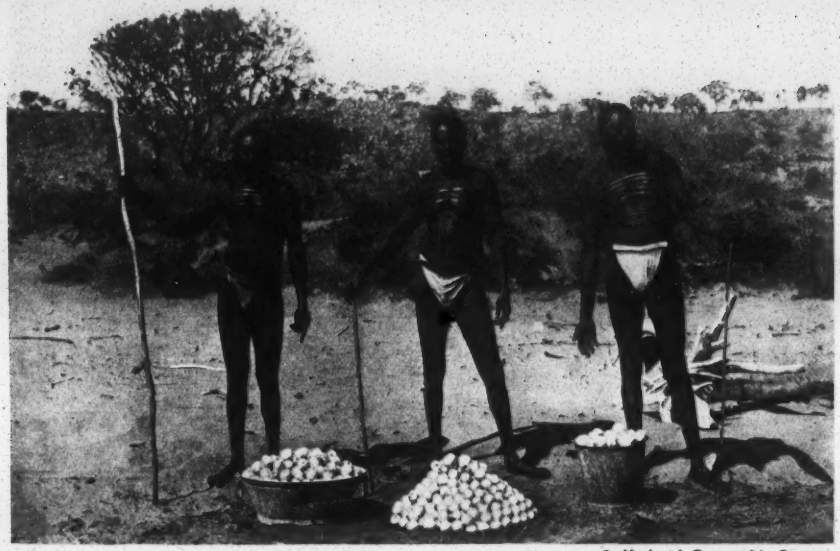
From the high rugged mainland this dark green patch of land seems a fairy island in a sapphire sea.

In Lacroma's made-over monastery are relics that stir unhappy memories of Maximilian and his wife, Carlotta. The view from the island shoreward inspires more pleasant thoughts of a remoter past. Against gray Monte Sergio rise the campaniles and domes, the massive medieval walls and the bastions and towers that tell of the one-time power of Ragusa, whose freighted merchant ships, known throughout the commercial world of their day, live in the expressive word they have given us, "argosy."

Bulletin No. 3, November 24, 1924.



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GIANT AUSTRALIAN BLACKS WITH TURTLE EGGS

Hunting turtle eggs is a common occupation along the northern coast of Australia. Unlike hen eggs, they have a parchmentlike covering. As many as 200 eggs have been found in one nest. The natives find these nests by probing the sand with spears or sticks, the stain of a spear point indicating the incubator. The eggs are eaten raw by the blacks and are used in cooking by the whites of tropical Australia (see Bulletin No. 5).

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REELING SILK IN ONE OF JAPAN'S MANY MODERN MILLS

More than one-fourth of the world's silk is produced in Japan. Of this a large percentage is sold as raw silk and only about one-sixth of the entire amount is manufactured in Japan (see Bulletin No. 2).